

State of Maryland, who will not get an unemployment check. There are 48 million Americans, mostly our seniors, who are going to see their benefits essentially ripped out from under them in Medicare as their doctors won't be able to treat them because their doctors are getting a cut.

I'm not really sure which Christmas House Republicans are celebrating, but in my house it's a Christmas of charity and of goodness. I am so saddened that here in this House we have ripped out from under the Christmas tree the Christmas for millions of American families who will not get to go into the New Year with a tax cut and who will go into the New Year without an unemployment check. The House Republicans have done a great disservice to this country.

DEMOCRATS, APPOINT YOUR CONFEREES

(Mr. CONAWAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, we've had an awful lot of conversation this afternoon. It twists on the idea that somehow the 100 Members of the Senate are so much smarter and so much brighter and so much more intelligent than the 435 Members of the House of Representatives.

Our colleagues from the other side of the aisle would ask us to simply accede to whatever the Senate does as ludicrous as it is. A 2-month extension is nonsense. It has no commonsense value whatsoever. Everyone in this Chamber knows that. Yet speaker after speaker says that we need to just accede to the wisdom of the Senate. The wisdom of the Senate is represented by a 2-month extension that is not paid for by anything that makes the remotest amount of sense.

We can fix this this coming week, and we think we should. Have them appoint their conferees, Mr. Speaker, so we can fix this for the American people. Then all this doom and gloom that's being spouted out down here goes away with a 1-year extension of unemployment, with a 1-year extension of the payroll tax, and with a 2-year extension for our doctors.

A SHELL GAME ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. We've witnessed a shell game played here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Republicans talked about having voted for an extension of the unemployment compensation and for extending the payroll tax, but what they gave with the right hand they took from the left. They said, We give you this, but we cut your benefits to 59 weeks of your unemployment compensation.

They all voted against the Affordable Care Act. So in this bill as well, if you have a preexisting condition, they want you not to get health care as you can today. If you're 26 years of age or younger, it would be that you can't get on your parents' insurance policies, which you can today because of the ACA. Also, the doughnut hole would be closed, which it is because of the ACA, but they're against that because they wanted to cut funds to put the America Cares Act into operation.

The fact is that Senate Republicans and Democrats didn't vote for a 60-day extension. They voted for time to get together and do a 1-year extension. That's what we need. They had wiser heads. You saw a good reason not to have term limits. First-year Members are acting as if they know everything; and in a petulant way, they have jeopardized millions of Americans.

THE BOTTOM LINE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Well done, my good and faithful servants.

That must be what the Koch brothers and the corporate Tea Party backers are saying. Their Republican Party in the House has for the whole year been able to stave off any fairness by protecting their millionaires and billionaires from being denied tax breaks.

Here we are at the end of the session, and they leave having not allowed this body to vote on the bipartisan agreement that the Senate reached with the House leadership's consent—an agreement that passed 89-10—and they went home. So we won't get a chance to vote on that package. They refused to let us do so. That's the story that we end with.

That's the bottom line, and that's the way it is.

A SAD AND WORRISOME TIME MADE WORSE BY THIS DAY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. At just about this hour, the Sun is setting, and Jewish families around the country, including mine, are going to their Hanukkah Menorah—the festival of lights, the festival of a miracle that the lights lasted for 8 days. Usually, this is a joyful time—a beautiful, holy celebration. For many families around this country, this is a very sad and worrisome time, made worse by this day.

With millions of Americans unemployed and relying on a meager average \$286-a-week check while they look for work, Republicans voted today to not extend unemployment insurance, to not extend a tax cut for middle-income people who need it so badly this year when the economics were so hard. It just breaks my heart that at this holi-

day season and when people are feeling in such a fragile economic state that today's vote took place. It didn't need to. We would have helped the American people today.

Happy Hanukkah.

REPUBLICANS, HAVE A HEART

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. I want to follow up on what my colleague from Illinois said, because it really is true.

We are talking about hurt for America's families here. I know that, in the next week, as this time expires on the unemployment compensation, on the Medicare reimbursement, on the payroll tax cut, I'm going to get calls from seniors telling me that the doctors are not accepting them for Medicare anymore. I'm going to find out that people have lost their unemployment insurance.

Here we are at a time when we're just starting to see the economy improve a little bit; and I know there is a real risk, if we don't extend that payroll tax cut, that we will send the economy back into a recession again.

It is amazing to me to see my colleagues on the other side suggest that somehow they're going to stay here and that the conferees are going to be here. None of that is true. They're home. They're not here. They're going home, and they're not going to come back until after January. I really think it's outrageous to think that they're running the risk that the economy will be hurt by this and that people won't have money in their pockets and that those who receive Medicare may be refused a doctor.

We're simply asking, as Democrats, to have a heart. Why is it that Republicans don't understand the negative consequences of this?

□ 1640

TAKEAWAYS FROM THE DAY

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, the two key takeaways from the debate today are, number one, there is nobody in this Chamber—nobody, Republican, Democrat—nobody in the Senate on the other side—Republican, Democrat, Independent—nobody believes that a 2-month fix is the end result of this process. The 2-month fix is to allow the benefits to continue so that the 160 million Americans that are now benefiting from the reduction in the payroll tax continue to have those benefits while we come together and while we compromise, while we come to a long-term agreement. That's what this is all about.

The other takeaway is the majority party did not allow a vote on the Senate plan. For all the talk about how